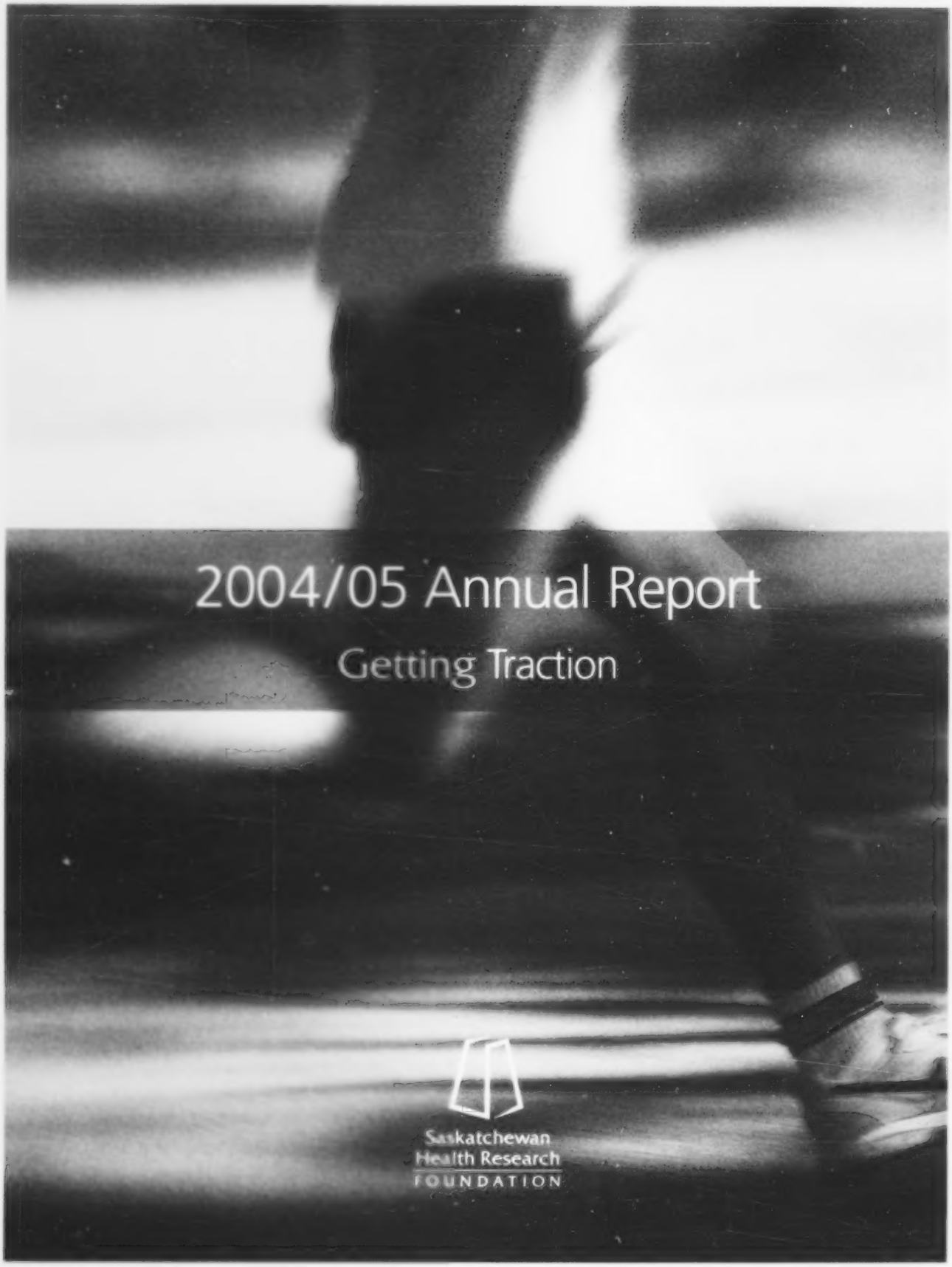
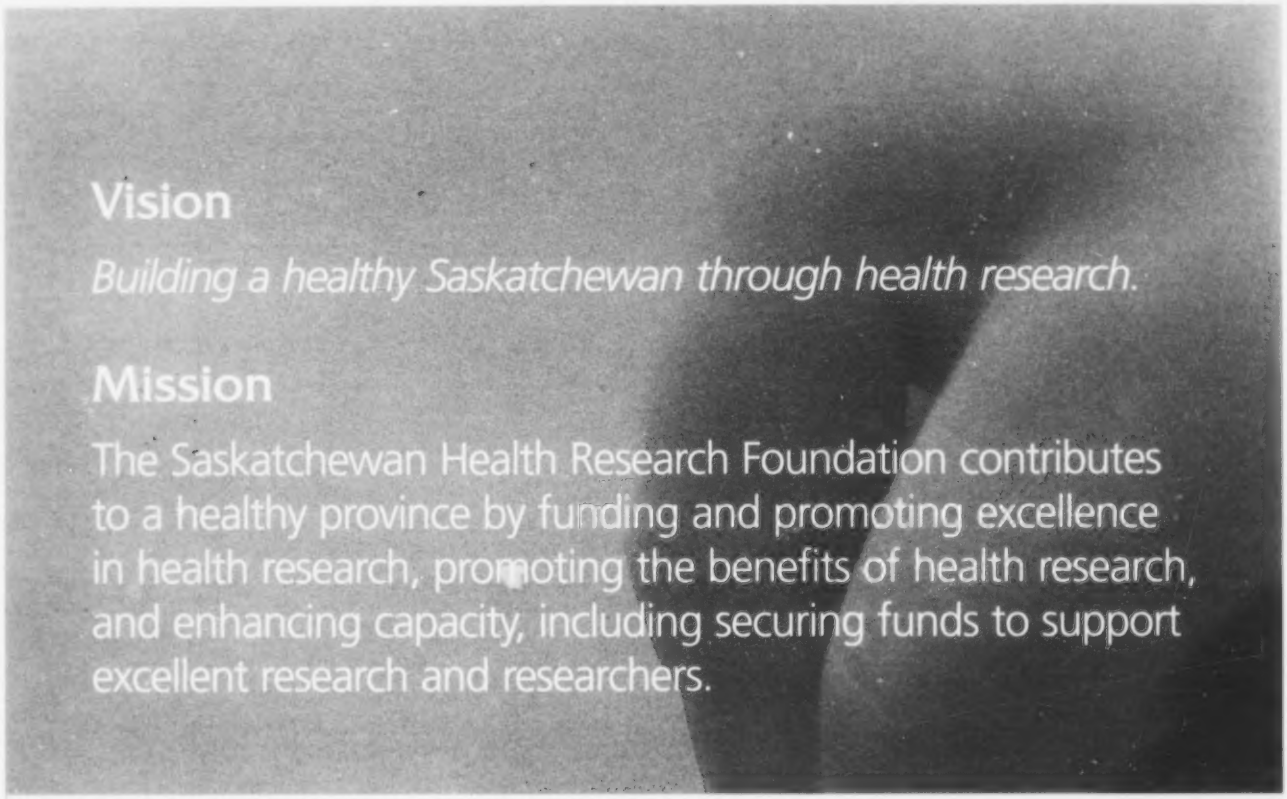

2004/05 Annual Report
Getting Traction
Saskatchewan
Health Research
FOUNDATION



Vision

Building a healthy Saskatchewan through health research.

Mission

The Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation contributes to a healthy province by funding and promoting excellence in health research, promoting the benefits of health research, and enhancing capacity, including securing funds to support excellent research and researchers.

Values

We believe health research ...

- is the ethical search for truth, knowledge, and understanding about human health;
- is an investment that leads to benefits for all Saskatchewan residents in many areas, including health, education and the economy;
- includes both basic and applied research; and
- encompasses many dimensions, including biomedical science, clinical investigation, health services and systems research, and research into the determinants of population health.

We are committed to good governance, including ...

- good stewardship for the resources entrusted to us; and
- the highest standards of public accountability.

We will maintain the highest standards of professional conduct, including ...

- integrity and honesty;
- respect for diverse perspectives and approaches; and
- clear, open, honest and timely communication.

We will work co-operatively and collaboratively with others to ...

- achieve mutual goals related to advancing health research in Saskatchewan; and
- ensure research findings are shared and used as widely as possible.

We strive for excellence and innovation in all our endeavours.

Vision

Building a healthy Saskatchewan through health research.

Mission

The Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation contributes to a healthy province by funding and promoting excellence in health research, promoting the benefits of health research, and enhancing capacity, including securing funds to support excellent research and researchers.

Values

We believe health research ...

- is the ethical search for truth, knowledge, and understanding about human health;
- is an investment that leads to benefits for all Saskatchewan residents in many areas, including health, education and the economy;
- includes both basic and applied research; and
- encompasses many dimensions, including biomedical science, clinical investigation, health services and systems research, and research into the determinants of population health.

We are committed to good governance, including ...

- good stewardship for the resources entrusted to us; and
- the highest standards of public accountability.

We will maintain the highest standards of professional conduct, including ...

- integrity and honesty;
- respect for diverse perspectives and approaches; and
- clear, open, honest and timely communication.

We will work co-operatively and collaboratively with others to ...

- achieve mutual goals related to advancing health research in Saskatchewan; and
- ensure research findings are shared and used as widely as possible.

We strive for excellence and innovation in all our endeavours.

105-06503/

The Honourable John T. Nilson, Q.C.
Minister of Health
Legislative Assembly
Regina SK S4S 0B3

Dear Mr. Nilson:

I am pleased to submit, for your consideration, the annual report of the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation for the fiscal period April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

E. L. Harrison, PhD, MSc, BPT
Chair

Contents

2 Board Chair's Message
3 Board of Directors
4 CEO's Message
5 Staff
6 Strategy
7 Getting Traction
8 Programs
14 Peer Review
16 Partnerships
18 Measuring Success
21 Financial Statements

Liz Harrison
Chair

Board Chair's Message

As of January 2005, the Foundation celebrated its second anniversary. During this past year, our Board and staff have worked hard to establish SHRF as a prominent health research agency within the province and national research community. In addition to finalizing SHRF's Governance Framework and Policies, the Board spent considerable time on plans for implementing the new provincial *Health Research Strategy*, which was released by the Minister of Health in July.

The *Health Research Strategy* defines the Foundation as a "catalyst" responsible for leadership throughout the implementation. Our Board is committed to working with our community in moving the plan forward and advancing each of its major themes: building the research priority areas; applying new knowledge; expanding health research capacity; and tracking progress and impact. Working groups, and other similar mechanisms, will ensure successful partnerships and maximize the contributions of many stakeholders involved with the Strategy.

A first step in working with our partners on the Strategy was our one-day Health Research Summit, which allowed the Board to consult with various individuals interested and committed to health research in Saskatchewan. Board members appreciated the time and energy that individuals devoted to this event. The input from the Summit shaped SHRF's Four-Year Plan.

The Board highlighted the achievements of funded health researchers in December at our first Santé! Awards Dinner. Celebrating and promoting health research excellence contributes to building health research capacity, and our grants and awards funding programs have contributed to this goal over the years. New to the program this year was our recognition of researchers who rated highest in each of our three major competitions, through our new SHRF Top Health Researcher Awards.

I would be remiss if I did not take the opportunity to commend my fellow Board members, individually and collectively, for their commitment to SHRF. As Board chair, I am consistently impressed by the high standards set by this Board, including outstanding stewardship and the focus on setting priorities and evaluating outcomes.

"As Board chair, I am consistently impressed by the high standards set by this Board, including outstanding stewardship and the focus on setting priorities and evaluating outcomes."

During the year, we had some Board membership changes, saying farewell to Ralph Nilson, who resigned when he moved to Nova Scotia; and to Alan Boulton, who completed his term. We were very pleased to welcome two new board members, Shauna Hudson and Allan Cahoon. As part of our commitment to accountability and self-evaluation, we are reporting board member attendance this year (see photo section).

The Board recognizes that the coming year will require extensive collaboration with various sectors and partners. We see our catalytic role as the key to a successful future for Saskatchewan's health research community. Also, with the new economic optimism developing in the province, we believe there is strong potential to reach the higher level of health research investment needed to take the ten-year *Health Research Strategy* from vision to reality!

E. L. Harrison, PhD, MSc, BPT
Chair, SHRF

Board of Directors

Liz Harrison (Chair)
University of Saskatchewan (5)

Ralph Nilson (Vice-Chair)
University of Regina (3)
To February 14, 2005

John Biss
Saskatchewan Learning (4)

Alan Boulton
Alviva Biopoharmaceuticals Inc. (4)
To January 31, 2005

Allan Cahoon
University of Regina
Appointed March 23, 2005

Neena Chappell
University of Victoria (4)

Louis Delbaere
University of Saskatchewan (3)

Gary Glavin
University of Manitoba (5)

Shauna Hudson
Sun Country Health Region (4)
Appointed June 9, 2004

Murray Knuttila
Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region (4)

Pauline Rousseau
Saskatchewan Health (4)

Hal Sanders
Saskatchewan Industry & Resources (5)

Tom Wishart
University of Saskatchewan (5)

* *Figures in parentheses indicate the number of meetings each SHRF board member attended in the 2004/2005 fiscal year.*

Board of Directors

Liz Harrison *(Chair)*
University of Saskatchewan (5)

Ralph Nilson *(Vice-Chair)*
University of Regina (3)
To February 14, 2005

John Biss
Saskatchewan Learning (4)

Alan Boulton
Alviva Biopoharmaceuticals Inc. (4)
To January 31, 2005

Allan Cahoon
University of Regina
Appointed March 23, 2005

Neena Chappell
University of Victoria (4)

Louis Delbaere
University of Saskatchewan (3)

Gary Glavin
University of Manitoba (5)

Shauna Hudson
Sun Country Health Region (4)
Appointed June 9, 2004

Murray Knuttila
Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region (4)

Pauline Rousseau
Saskatchewan Health (4)

Hal Sanders
Saskatchewan Industry & Resources (5)

Tom Wishart
University of Saskatchewan (5)

* *Figures in parentheses indicate the number of meetings each SHRF board member attended in the 2004/2005 fiscal year.*

June Bold
Chief Executive Officer

CEO's Message

As I reflect on the year's activities and accomplishments, the theme for this year's report, "Getting Traction," feels very right. The Minister of Health released the *Health Research Strategy* in July, naming SHRF as leader, or catalyst, for taking the 10-year plan from vision to action. We quickly turned our attention, both at the Board table and in the office, to this ambitious task.

One thing immediately became clear: the Strategy is much larger than SHRF. Its success will depend on the commitment and collaboration of many organizations and individuals. Therefore our first step was to invite a diverse group of leading thinkers to a Health Research Summit in early December.

It was a productive day, for us and the participants. At the end of it, there was greater understanding of the *Health Research Strategy* and the priority actions needed to move it forward. (Please see the Strategy section of this report.) SHRF's leadership role was endorsed, as was the Strategy's focus and direction. We definitely felt we had the support of our community to move ahead.

We also recognized the challenges ahead. These include: further defining the health research priority areas; sustaining key areas of strength; defining our role as a granting agency in applying research knowledge and securing sufficient resources to carry out the work required.

With the workload expanding, the need for more staff and space was evident. We managed to secure additional footage adjacent to our existing space and took possession of an expanded area in December. We also welcomed two new staff members during the year. James Winkel joined us as our Communications Officer in December. Lynn Nastiuk joined us as casual administrative help for the Summit and stayed on to become full-time. Once again, we had a summer student with us, Jennifer Yelland, who assisted with our annual program evaluation and upgrading the grants database. Our regular staff complement now stands at six. We anticipate hiring one or two more employees to add capacity in measuring research impact and in defining our knowledge transfer role.

Drawing on external expert advice, we explored our mandate to seek and receive additional funds to advance health research in Saskatchewan. Our Board recognized the vital role of charitable agencies and foundations in fund-raising for research; they approved an SHRF model that focuses on partnerships and collaboration to build and co-ordinate health research resources.

"Our Board recognized the vital role of charitable agencies and foundations in fund-raising for research; they approved an SHRF model that focuses on partnerships and collaboration to build and focus health research resources."

Our communications function saw intense activity throughout the year. An early focus was establishing our visual identity in print and electronic media. We also held our first SHRF Santé! Awards Dinner to acknowledge the year's new grants and award recipients. Other features were a research poster session, new awards to the top researchers in our competitions, a slide show with researcher photos and summaries of funded research, and certificates recognizing our retiring peer-review committee members. A complete revamping of our Web site was next, aiming to create a more attractive, interactive, user friendly, informative electronic resource for our community.

This year was a whirlwind of activity that established our operational base and set the stage for forging ahead with the important work of the *Health Research Strategy*. We have gotten some very good traction on moving the Strategy from vision to action, and look forward to continuing this momentum in co-operation with our partners.

June M. Bold, MSc, BA
Chief Executive Officer, SHRF

Staff

June Bold
Chief Executive Officer

Lori Ebbesen
Program and Evaluation Officer

Lynn Nastiuk
Administrative Assistant

Sherry Wailing
Accountant

James Winkel
Communications Officer

Val Ziegler
Administrative Secretary

Mandate

As defined in ***The Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation Act*** *(2002)*...

Seek and receive funding from government and non-government sources for the advancement of research.

Encourage and facilitate research in health sciences; the health-related social sciences and other health-related fields of study.

Assist the Minister of Health to develop a provincial strategy for research into matters associated with the health sciences, the health-related social sciences and other health-related fields of study.

Provide funding to persons and agencies who are conducting or proposing to conduct research projects that are consistent with the provincial strategy.

Disseminate information to members of health-related professions and to the public respecting the objects of the Foundation, the research that the Foundation supports, the results of that research and conclusions drawn from that research.

Staff

June Bold
Chief Executive Officer

Lori Ebbesen
Program and Evaluation Officer

Lynn Nastiuk
Administrative Assistant

Sherry Wailing
Accountant

James Winkel
Communications Officer

Val Ziegler
Administrative Secretary

Mandate

As defined in ***The Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation Act*** *(2002)*...

Seek and receive funding from government and non-government sources for the advancement of research.

Encourage and facilitate research in health sciences, the health-related social sciences and other health-related fields of study.

Assist the Minister of Health to develop a provincial strategy for research into matters associated with the health sciences, the health-related social sciences and other health-related fields of study.

Provide funding to persons and agencies who are conducting or proposing to conduct research projects that are consistent with the provincial strategy.

Disseminate information to members of health-related professions and to the public respecting the objects of the Foundation, the research that the Foundation supports, the results of that research and conclusions drawn from that research.

Saskatchewan's *Health Research Strategy*

Released by the Minister of Health in July 2004, the provincial *Health Research Strategy* is an exciting vision for strengthening health research in Saskatchewan and ensuring that research leads to benefits for its citizens. The ambitious 10-year plan calls for staged implementation with short, medium and long-term priorities and major evaluations at five and ten year intervals.

The Strategy reflects SHRF's input, gathered during consultations the previous fall. It also reflects two clear messages heard throughout the consultation period: as a small province, Saskatchewan needs to focus its research resources and energies in areas critical to the health and well-being of its population; and, we also need to build on current health research strengths and unique advantages.

The Strategy's actions are outlined in four major themes:

1. Establishing health research priority areas;
2. Applying what we learn;
3. Building health research capacity; and
4. Tracking progress and impact.

The priority areas reflect the province's demographic and geographic characteristics, the health status and health challenges of Saskatchewan residents, and existing areas of strength and unique advantages in health research. Briefly, they include:

- Special population groups, including Aboriginal people and seniors;
- Rural and remote health care delivery;
- Health systems and policy research, including primary health care, mental health services, workforce planning, and innovative service delivery models;
- Determinants of health status – early childhood development and chronic disease prevention emphasing on diabetes, obesity and smoking;
- Public health, water safety and food safety; and
- Synchrotron-based health research.

The Foundation is designated with a lead role in implementing the Strategy. Its success in this regard will depend on the collaboration and commitment of many individuals and organizations in the province. Our first step was holding a think-tank session – the Health Research Summit – bringing together over 100 leading thinkers and decision-makers from Saskatchewan's universities, health system, government, charitable sector, community organizations, and private sector.

We asked participants to identify critical early steps in advancing the themes and priorities of the Strategy. A summary document: *From Vision to Action - Health Research Summit 2004 Report* synthesizes the ideas generated, which helped shape phase-one of our Strategy implementation.

Key Messages from Summit Participants

The Strategy's focus and direction make good sense for Saskatchewan.

SHRF is the logical leader for implementing the Strategy.

Capacity building is critical in every priority area.

Remember that Saskatchewan has many existing strengths on which to build.

Nurture stronger links between researchers and their relevant communities.

Keep an eye on emerging as well as current health issues.

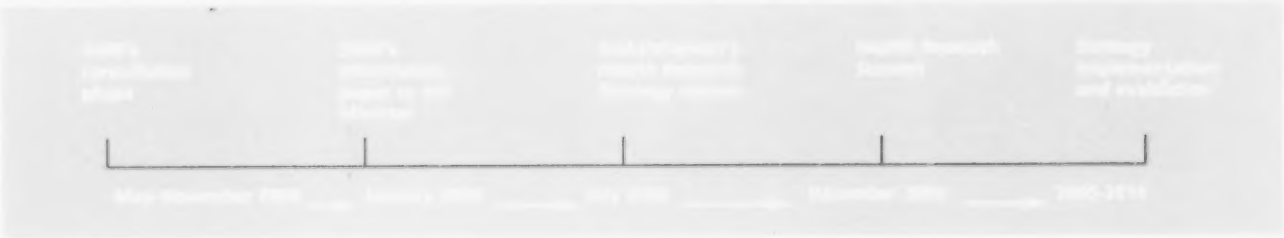
With the plan now in place, it's time to act!

Getting Traction: SHRF's Progress and Direction

Strategic Directions	Looking Back at 2004-05... Action Highlights	Looking Ahead to 2005-06... Planned Action
1 **Advancing Saskatchewan's health research priority areas**	Planned alignment of funding programs with health research priority areas Consulted leading thinkers in Saskatchewan about further definition of the priority areas	Implement alignment of funding programs with health research priority areas Offer new programs to foster research in the health research priority areas, as resources permit Monitor national trends to identify funding and partnering opportunities in priority areas
2 **Fostering the exchange and application of new health research knowledge**	Supported conferences that connect researchers with communities and service providers Entered a partnership to support health professionals in applied research training Shared information about funded research through events, print materials, and Web site	Establish a task force to develop a provincial knowledge transfer framework Continue emphasis on knowledge transfer in all SHRF funded research Continue reporting on health research activities, outcomes and benefits Launch new Web site to strengthen health research promotion and sharing information
3 **Strengthening Saskatchewan's health research capacity**	Continued funding support for new faculty, research fellowships, new groups, and research centres Supported the Saskatchewan - Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Regional Partnership Program Continued support for University Co-ordinator of Health Research Instituted new SHRF Top Health Researcher Awards to celebrate and promote excellence	Offer new programs and activities to strengthen health research capacity in key areas, as resources permit Continue support for the Sask - CIHR Regional Partnership Program, aligning with the Strategy Explore future of health research co-ordination position(s) Explore additional mechanisms to showcase health research achievements and successes
4 **Implementing the *Health Research Strategy* and tracking progress**	Planned and hosted the Health Research Summit and disseminated results Implemented communications plan to support and advance all strategic theme areas Expanded staff and office space at SHRF to meet expanding workload	Continue working with partners focusing on early priority actions in the Strategy Develop evaluation framework for the Strategy, with targets, indicators, and measures Strive to ensure sufficient internal capacity and resources to implement and evaluate the Strategy

Saskatchewan's *Health Research Strategy*

Released by the Minister of Health in July 2004, the provincial *Health Research Strategy* is an exciting vision for strengthening health research in Saskatchewan and ensuring that research leads to benefits for its citizens. The ambitious 10-year plan calls for staged implementation with short, medium and long-term priorities and major evaluations at five and ten year intervals.



The Strategy reflects SHRF's input, gathered during consultations the previous fall. It also reflects two clear messages heard throughout the consultation period: as a small province, Saskatchewan needs to focus its research resources and energies in areas critical to the health and well-being of its population, and, we also need to build on current health research strengths and unique advantages.

The Strategy's actions are outlined in four major themes:

1. Establishing health research priority areas;
2. Applying what we learn;
3. Building health research capacity; and
4. Tracking progress and impact.

The priority areas reflect the province's demographic and geographic characteristics, the health status and health challenges of Saskatchewan residents, and existing areas of strength and unique advantages in health research. Briefly, they include:

- Special population groups, including Aboriginal people and seniors;
- Rural and remote health care delivery;
- Health systems and policy research, including primary health care, mental health services, workforce planning, and innovative service delivery models;
- Determinants of health status – early childhood development and chronic disease prevention emphasing on diabetes, obesity and smoking;
- Public health, water safety and food safety; and
- Synchrotron-based health research.

The Foundation is designated with a lead role in implementing the Strategy. Its success in this regard will depend on the collaboration and commitment of many individuals and organizations in the province. Our first step was holding a think-tank session – the Health Research Summit – bringing together over 100 leading thinkers and decision-makers from Saskatchewan's universities, health system, government, charitable sector, community organizations, and private sector.

We asked participants to identify critical early steps in advancing the themes and priorities of the Strategy. A summary document: *From Vision to Action - Health Research Summit 2004 Report* synthesizes the ideas generated, which helped shape phase-one of our Strategy implementation.

Key Messages from Summit Participants

The Strategy's focus and direction make good sense for Saskatchewan.

SHRF is the logical leader for implementing the Strategy.

Capacity building is critical in every priority area.

Remember that Saskatchewan has many existing strengths on which to build.

Nurture stronger links between researchers and their relevant communities.

Keep an eye on emerging as well as current health issues.

With the plan now in place, it's time to act!

Getting Traction: SHRF's Progress and Direction

Strategic Directions	Looking Back at 2004-05... Action Highlights	Looking Ahead to 2005-06... Planned Actions
1 **Advancing Saskatchewan's health research priority areas**	Planned alignment of funding programs with health research priority areas Consulted leading thinkers in Saskatchewan about further definition of the priority areas	Complete alignment of funding programs with health research priority areas Offer new programs and activities in the health research priority areas, as resources permit Monitor national trends to identify funding and partnership opportunities in priority areas
2 **Fostering the exchange and application of new health research knowledge**	Supported conferences that connect researchers with communities and service providers Entered a partnership to support health professionals in applied research training Shared information about research through events and Web site	Develop a new research knowledge translation framework Complete and begin to implement a knowledge transfer and exchange plan for SHRF-funded research Continue investing in health research activities, events and forums Launch new Web site to strengthen health research promotion and sharing of information
3 **Strengthening Saskatchewan's health research capacity**	Continued funding support for new faculty, research fellowships, research groups, and research centres Supported the Saskatchewan - Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Regional Partnership Program Continued support for University Co-ordinator of Health Research Instituted new SHRF Top Health Researcher Awards to celebrate and promote excellence	Offer new programs and activities to strengthen health research capacity in key areas, as resources permit Continue support for the Sask - CIHR Regional Partnership Program, aligning with the Strategy Explore future of health research co-ordination position(s) Explore additional mechanisms to showcase health research achievements and successes
4 **Implementing the *Health Research Strategy* and tracking progress**	Planned and hosted the Health Research Summit and disseminated results Implemented communications plan to support and advance all strategic theme areas Expanded staff and office space at SHRF to meet expanding workload	Continue working with partners focusing on early priority actions in the Strategy Develop evaluation framework for the Strategy, with targets, indicators, and measures Strive to ensure sufficient internal capacity and resources to implement and evaluate the Strategy

Funding Programs

Our funding programs are important tools for helping us fulfill various aspects of our mandate. Generally, they have a strong developmental focus and reflect national funding opportunities, aiming to build health research capacity and assist Saskatchewan researchers in stepping onto the highly competitive national scene. Within that developmental framework, we encourage and support a broad range of human health research. This research includes basic biomedical science, clinical research, health services and systems research, and research into the cultural, social and environmental determinants of population health.

This section describes the funding programs offered during 2004-05. The SHRF Awards Guide, published annually, describes all competition categories and related policies, including eligibility criteria and submission requirements for all programs. It is available from our office and Web site, along with application forms and other competition materials. Our Web site carries the most up-to-date programming information and competition results.

Our Board approved almost $2-million in research grants and fellowships during 2004-05. Most of these are two-year awards that will be paid out in current and future years. As per Board policy, effective April 1, 2004, our fellowship rates increased and are equivalent to those offered nationally by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Table 1 provides an overview of all funding approved in 2004-05, with details of individual grants and fellowships shown throughout this section.

Table 1:

Applications Received, Recommended, and Approved 2004-05

Grant Category	Applications Received		Applications Recommended		Applications Approved	
	No.	$	No.	$	No.	$
Research Establishment						
Biomedical	16	1,244,167	10	764,167	5	89,202
Equipment (Biomedical)	11	303,180	6	179,380	3	89,000
Subtotal		**1,547,347**		**943,547**		**178,202**
Socio-Health	9	641,197	4	261,664	4	261,664
Equipment (Socio-Health)	1	26,801	1	26,801	1	26,801
Subtotal		**667,998**		**288,465**		**288,465**
Research Fellowships						
Postdoctoral	29	2,610,000	20	1,800,000	9	89,000
Clinical	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal		**2,610,000**		**1,800,000**		**89,000**
Research Group Facilitation	7	**280,000**	5	**200,000**	5	**200,000**
Research Connections	13	**98,700**	9	**61,000**	9	**61,000**
Total		**5,394,045**		**3,293,012**		**1,182,667**

Programs

Funding Programs

Our funding programs are important tools for helping us fulfill various aspects of our mandate. Generally, they have a strong developmental focus and reflect national funding opportunities, aiming to build health research capacity and assist Saskatchewan researchers in stepping onto the highly competitive national scene. Within that developmental framework, we encourage and support a broad range of human health research. This research includes basic biomedical science, clinical research, health services and systems research, and research into the cultural, social and environmental determinants of population health.

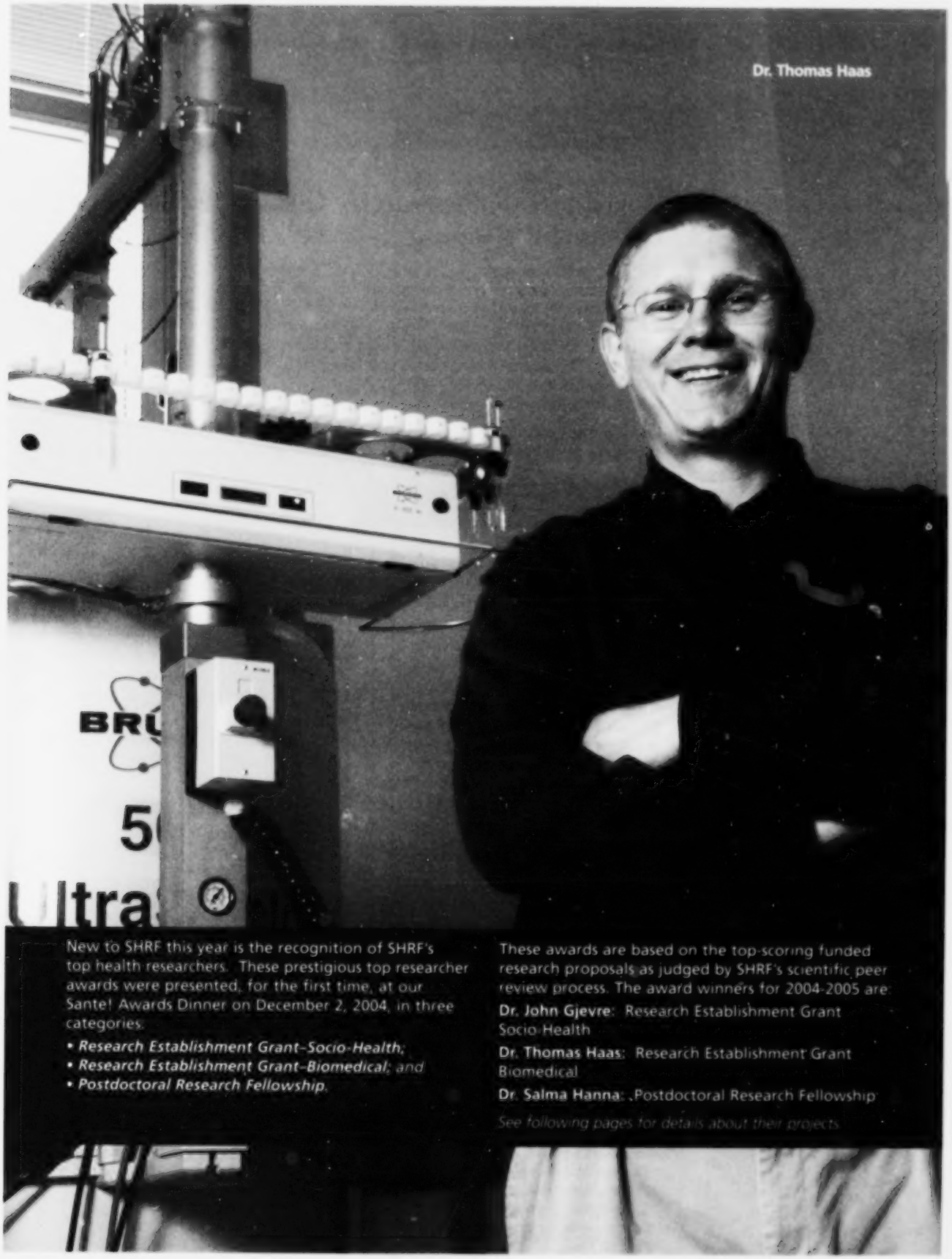
This section describes the funding programs offered during 2004-05. The SHRF Awards Guide, published annually, describes all competition categories and related policies, including eligibility criteria and submission requirements for all programs. It is available from our office and Web site, along with application forms and other competition materials. Our Web site carries the most up-to-date programming information and competition results.

Our Board approved almost $2-million in research grants and fellowships during 2004-05. Most of these are two-year awards that will be paid out in current and future years. As per Board policy, effective April 1, 2004, our fellowship rates increased and are equivalent to those offered nationally by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Table 1 provides an overview of all funding approved in 2004-05, with details of individual grants and fellowships shown throughout this section.

Table 1:

Applications Received, Recommended, and Approved 2004-05

Grant Category	Applications Received		Applications Recommended		Applications Approved	
	No.	$	No.	$	No.	$
Research Establishment						
Biomedical	16	1,244,167	10	764,167	5	396,202
Equipment (Biomedical)	11	303,180	6	179,380	3	69,000
Subtotal		**1,547,347**		**943,547**		**465,202**
Socio-Health	9	641,197	4	261,664	4	261,664
Equipment (Socio-Health)	1	26,801	1	26,801	1	26,801
Subtotal		**667,998**		**288,465**		**288,465**
Research Fellowships						
Postdoctoral	29	2,610,000	20	1,800,000	9	810,000
Clinical	0	0		0		0
Subtotal		**2,610,000**		**1,800,000**		**810,000**
Research Group Facilitation	7	**280,000**	5	**200,000**	5	**200,000**
Research Connections	13	**98,700**	9	**61,000**	9	**61,000**
Total		**5,204,045**		**3,293,012**		**1,824,667**



Dr. Thomas Haas

New to SHRF this year is the recognition of SHRF's top health researchers. These prestigious top researcher awards were presented, for the first time, at our Sante! Awards Dinner on December 2, 2004, in three categories:

- ***Research Establishment Grant–Socio-Health;***
- ***Research Establishment Grant–Biomedical;*** *and*
- ***Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.***

These awards are based on the top-scoring funded research proposals as judged by SHRF's scientific peer review process. The award winners for 2004-2005 are:

Dr. John Gjevre: Research Establishment Grant Socio-Health

Dr. Thomas Haas: Research Establishment Grant Biomedical

Dr. Salma Hanna: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

See following pages for details about their projects.

Research Fellowships

(supervisor's name in parentheses)

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

Tuanjie Chang (L. Wu)
Pharmacology Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
The role of methylglyoxal in the development of hypertension

Salma Hanna (R. Pierson)
Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Studies, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Human ovarian follicular dynamics and emergency contraception

Wen Jiang (X. Zhang)
Neuropsychiatry Research Unit, Psychiatry, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Relations between adult neurogenesis and marijuana dependence

Marianela Lopez (H. Townsend)
Large Animal Clinical Sciences, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Evaluation of a live-attenuated vaccine against Rhodococcus equi

Satoshi Okuyama (P. Paterson)
Pharmacy and Nutrition, University of Saskatchewan
Protein-energy malnutrition and brain injury following stroke

Monica Salles (V. Gerdts)
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization, University of Saskatchewan
New strategies for oral vaccination Targeting to antigen-specific receptors

Noor Syed (W. Xiao)
Microbiology and Immunology, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Roles of Uev1A in cancer

Wenjun Wang (J. Gordon)
Veterinary Microbiology, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Roles of ELR-CXC chemokines in systemic endotoxemia

Weiping Yu (R. Geyer/W. Dong)
Biochemistry, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma classification by protein profiling

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

These awards offer an advanced full-time research training opportunity for individuals with a doctorate degree to work in concert with an established researcher. The awards allow recipients to further develop research skills, equip themselves for a career in health research, and enhance the research productivity of the supervising faculty member.

Salary stipend, $40,000/year and research allowance, $5,000/year for up to 2 years

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Understanding Emergency Contraception

Salma Hanna, Postdoctoral Fellow & Supervisor Roger Pierson, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Emergency contraception - or the "morning after pill" - is used without prescription by thousands of women each month to decrease the probability of conception following unprotected intercourse. Exactly how it works in the body to prevent pregnancy is not known. Dr. Salma Hanna's work will be to learn more about this, with the goal of increasing effectiveness of emergency contraception.

A second goal of the project is to study the relationship between emergency contraception and high blood pressure.

"The research will have a profound impact on health. Unintended and unwanted pregnancies incur profound costs to the psychological well being of women. Women with unintended pregnancies are faced with very difficult choices," Hanna says. It is hoped that Dr. Hanna's work will help to develop safer and more effective emergency contraception.

Clinical Research Fellowships

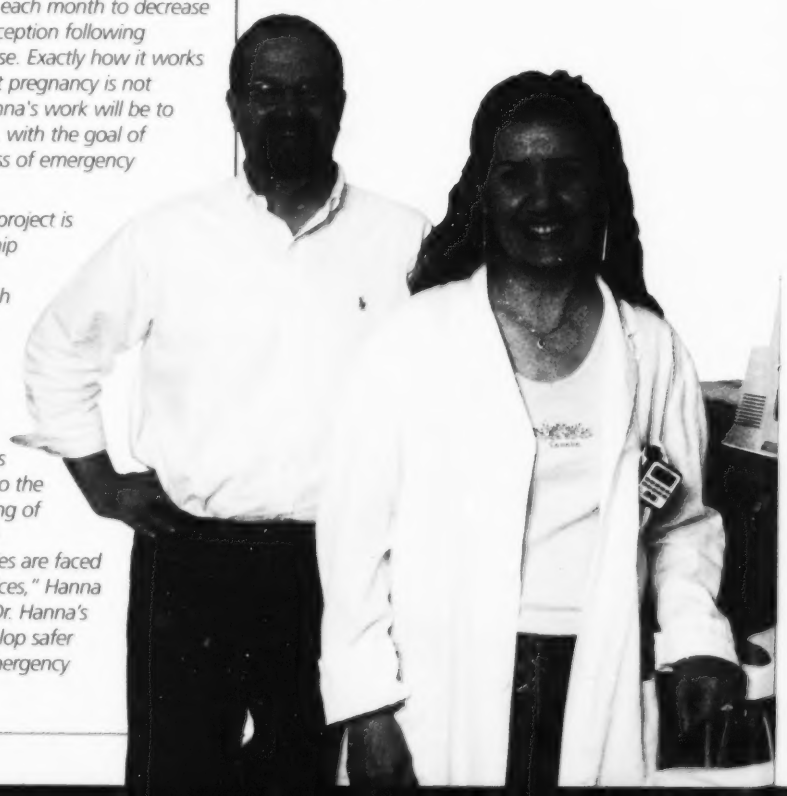
This program assists individuals with professional health degrees to develop a research skill-set that will enable them to undertake a career as a clinician researcher in Saskatchewan. Award holders may undertake graduate research training during the fellowship.

Salary stipend, $40,000 to $50,000/year and research allowance, $5,000/year for up to 2 years

Strategic Development Grants

This program concluded by funding the last project in 2004. Strategic Development Grants supported teams led by Saskatchewan university faculty members to prepare a full submission to a national strategic grant initiative, such as those offered periodically by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The supported work was required to be collaborative and multi-disciplinary.

Up to $30,000



Research Establishment Grants

These grants facilitate new university faculty in establishing independent health research programs within the province. They also assist in achieving research productivity necessary for obtaining sustainable funding from national and other agencies.

Up to $40,000/year for 2 years

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Improving Blood-Thinning Drugs

Thomas Haas, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Thomas Haas is researching how platelets work. Platelets are small blood cells that play a central role in blood clotting and wound healing. They do their job by becoming activated (turned on) at the site of a blood vessel injury. Once activated, they seal the leak in the blood vessel to stop the flow.

However, in a person with a vascular disorder such as atherosclerosis, platelets can seal up blood vessels of essential organs, such as the heart or brain, and cause a heart attack or stroke. Scientists have developed drugs that block this clotting action, such as Aspirin and Reopro. However, these drugs are not 100% effective, and some cause severe bleeding.

"To date we know that a protein on the surface of the platelets is essential for stopping a cut from bleeding. What we don't know is how this protein gets 'turned on'. This research will focus on learning this. Once we know more, new potent and effective drugs can be developed," Haas says.

Haas aims to design a better anti-clotting drug by learning more about the series of events involved in clotting.

(see photo, page 9)

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Predicting Sleep Apnea in Women

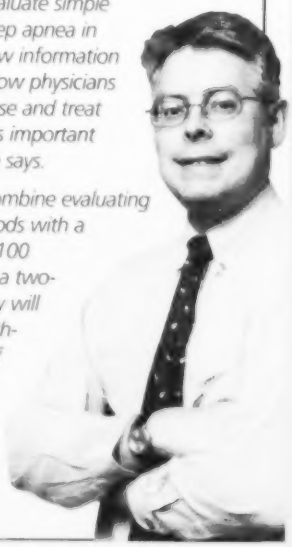
John Gjevre, Department of Medicine, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

We know a great deal about sleep apnea in men, a disorder that causes a person's breathing to cease during sleep, however, there has been little research on how to predict this disorder in women. Obstructive sleep apnea is an increasingly diagnosed disease in women which has serious potential risks, including increased risk of high blood pressure, heart attacks, and strokes.

John Gjevre and his colleagues want to help define what are the risk factors that predict sleep apnea in women, and to compare the results of overnight sleep lab testing to in-home sleep monitoring.

"We hope to evaluate simple predictors of sleep apnea in women. This new information will hopefully allow physicians to better diagnose and treat women with this important disorder," Gjevre says.

The study will combine evaluating these two methods with a group of about 100 volunteers, over a two-year period. They will also gather health-related quality of life information and blood samples from the study participants.



Establishment Equipment Grants

Research Establishment Grant applicants may also apply for an accompanying grant to acquire major equipment essential to their research programs and not available to them through other means.

Up to $30,000 for up to 6 months

Research Establishment Grants

Asterisk (*) indicates accompanying Equipment Grant

Bio-Medical

Mark Eramian*
Computer Science, Arts and Science,
University of Saskatchewan
Automation of recognition and classification of ovarian follicles in ultrasonographic images

Thomas Haas*
Anatomy and Cell Biology, Medicine,
University of Saskatchewan
Increasing the clinical outcome of cardiovascular interventions by suppression of platelet integrin function

Sheri Harder
Medical Imaging, Medicine,
University of Saskatchewan
Magnetic resonance spectroscopy in diagnosis and prognosis of mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease

David Sanders*
Chemistry, Arts and Science,
University of Saskatchewan
The thioredoxin system of Helicobacter pylori: Crystallographic studies of a potential drug target

Xin-Ming Song
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization,
University of Saskatchewan
Development and use of Streptococcus pneumoniae oligonucleotide microarrays to investigate pathogen response to host

Socio-Health

Angelina Baydala
Psychology, Arts,
University of Regina
Narratives of psychotherapy

Gordon Binsted
Kinesiology,
University of Saskatchewan
The influence of motor system damage on the control of reaching to grasp: Examining intention tremor due to multiple sclerosis

John Gjevre*
Medicine,
University of Saskatchewan
Predictors of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) in women

Melanie Morrison
Psychology, Arts and Science,
University of Saskatchewan
Physical and psychological health correlates of perceived prejudice and discrimination among gay men and lesbian women

Research Connections Grants

Capacity Building for Evidence Gathering and Evidence-Based Decision Making
Heartland Regional Health Authority
Key contact: **Kelly Chessie**

Community-Based Research and Aboriginal Women's Health
Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence, Community Health and Epidemiology, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Key contact: **Kay Willson**

Frontiers in Bio-Metals
Geological Sciences, Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan
Key contact: **Ingrid Pickering**

Life Sciences Research Conference
Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Key contact: **Bernadine Rudichuk**

Medical Imaging Workshop
Anatomy and Cell Biology, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Key contact: **Dean Chapman**

Preventing Heart Disease and Stroke in First Nations and Métis Communities
Heart and Stroke Foundation of Saskatchewan
Key contact: **Diane Waterer**

Protein Crystallography Workshop
Canadian Light Source, University of Saskatchewan
Key contact: **Pawel Grochulski**

The 2004 Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology Conference
Kinesiology, University of Saskatchewan
Key contact: **Philip Chilibeck**

Workshop for Northern Health Authorities in Western Provinces: What can we learn from each other about integrating health services?
Canadian Centre for Analysis of Regionalization and Health, Inc.
Key contact: **Denise Kouri**

Research Group Facilitation Grants

This program, offered in 2003-04 and 2004-05, facilitates the formation and development of new health research groups in the province. Groups advance strategic research directions within the home institution and/or province and contribute generally to the capacity for and quality of health research. The groups consist of active researchers with common interests with the intention of building a long-term association with each other that will benefit research productivity and competitiveness for national funding. SHRF funds must be matched by financial contributions from the researchers' home institution.

Up to $20,000/group/year for 2 years

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Research on Aging Aims for the Elderly to Stay Healthier Longer

Bernhard Juurlink (Group leader),
Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Clinical investigators and biomedical scientists team up in this group to study how an aging population can live with better mental and physical health having less pain, fewer surgeries and better end of life care. They will look at dietary, physical activity and psychosocial interventions.

"We expect great synergies because of the interaction between clinical and biomedical researchers...they will be able to work on common problems using both clinical and biomedical perspectives and we anticipate that better interventions for problems associated with aging will result," Juurlink says.

The group's focus will be the nervous and musculoskeletal systems, as many ailments of the elderly emanate from these two body systems. This grant brings together Saskatchewan investigators from clinical and biomedical research areas who generally have not been working together.

Research Connections Grants

This program, new in May 2004, promotes the advancement and exchange of new health research knowledge. It encourages linkages among multiple stakeholders and helps address health-related knowledge gaps in areas of particular importance to our province. It provides matching funds for the support of health research conferences, workshops, research days, and similar events that are organized and held in Saskatchewan.

Up to $10,000 per event

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Evidence-Based Decision Making in Rural and Northern Health Regions: A Capacity Building Workshop

Kelly Chessie

SHRF and the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF) provided matching funds for a two-day workshop about applying evidence-based decision making in rural and northern health regions, October 4th and 5th, 2004 in Saskatoon. The workshop focused on collaboration of local, provincial and national research agendas; and provided an opportunity for health system decision makers to share their day to day questions with other researchers.

"We successfully brought senior leaders together to rekindle their interest and support for evidence-based decision making. Participants learned more about how and where to search for evidence, critique it, and apply it," Chessie said.

Those attending the two-day workshop went back to their respective regions to do their own internal work in moving the evidence-based decision making agenda forward. Many participants will accomplish this by delivering capacity building sessions for staff and incorporating principles discussed at the workshop into the daily activities of all quality improvement teams.

Research Centres

We continue to carry on funding responsibility for six research centres, transferred from Saskatchewan Health or the Health Services Utilization and Research Commission (listing below). This year, we focused on establishing a memorandum of agreement with each centre and developing an overall program framework for research-centre funding, including review and evaluation criteria, which will be announced early in 2005-06.

Funding levels and terms vary

- **Canadian Centre for Analysis of Regionalization and Health, Inc. (Saskatoon)**
  Executive Director: Denise Kouri
  See www.regionalization.org

- **Cancer Research Unit, Saskatchewan Cancer Agency,**
  Chief Executive Officer: Bob Allen
  See www.scf.sk.ca

- **Institute for Agricultural, Rural, and Environmental Health**
  College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
  Director: James Dosman
  See www.IAREH.usask.ca

- **Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre, First Nations University of Canada**
  Director: Janet Smylie
  See www.iphrc.ca

- **Neuropsychiatry Research Unit**
  College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
  Director: Xin-Min Li
  See www.usask.ca/psychiatry/neuroresearch.html

- **Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit**
  University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan
  Acting Director: George Maslany
  See www.spheru.ca

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

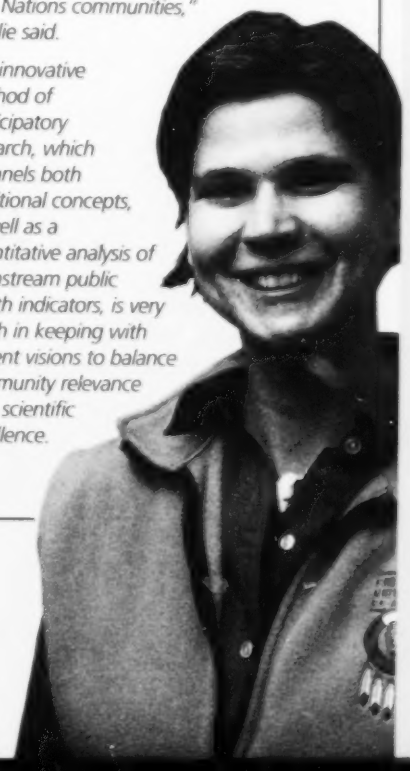
Kokum: What Makes a Baby Well?

Janet Smylie, Professor, Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre, Family Medicine, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Janet Smylie wants to improve researcher and community knowledge about how best to measure the health of Aboriginal babies. She has been collaborating with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) and she is looking for partnerships with two First Nations communities in Saskatchewan. Her project's long-term aim is to develop and evaluate a national "best practice" health information system for Aboriginal babies. In addition to receiving SHRF funding Smylie also receives financial assistance from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

"We hope to better understand the value of mainstream maternal child health indicators such as high and low birth weight in Aboriginal populations, as well as historical concepts of infant wellness in First Nations communities," Smylie said.

The innovative method of participatory research, which channels both traditional concepts, as well as a quantitative analysis of mainstream public health indicators, is very much in keeping with current visions to balance community relevance with scientific excellence.



Research Group Facilitation Grants

Clinical and Biomedical Aspects of Aging Research Group
Anatomy and Cell Biology, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Group leader: **Bernhard Juurlink**

Gene Expression Mapping Using Synchrotron Light (GEMS)
Anatomy and Cell Biology, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Group leader: **Dean Chapman**

Reproductive Science and Medicine Group
Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Group leader: **Roger Pierson**

Research Group on Obesity
Kinesiology, University of Saskatchewan
Group leader: **Karen Chad**

Saskatchewan Rheumatology Research Initiative
Pediatrics, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Group leader: **Alan Rosenberg**

2003–04 Strategic Development Grant

Janet Smylie
Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre and Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Kokum – What makes a baby well? Improving community/researcher understanding of how to measure infant health using oral history

Peer Review

Review Process

Our selection processes are founded on peer review, where panels of active researchers assess research proposals using excellence, relevance and feasibility as key deciding factors. Applications must also meet the stated objectives and priorities for the particular funding program (as described in our Awards Guide). The selection process is as follows:

Selection Process Steps

1	SHRF invites reviewers to serve on committees
2	Applicants submit proposals to SHRF
3	SHRF staff screen applications for completeness and eligibility
4	Committee chair, with SHRF staff, assigns applications to reviewers
5	Reviewers prepare in-depth, written assessments
6	Committee meets to discuss and rate all applications
7	Committee recommends the top applications for funding to SHRF Board
8	SHRF Board approves [illegible] grants as available funds allow
9	SHRF staff ensure [illegible] requirements are met, including ethics review
10	SHRF office [illegible] funding to researchers' home institution
11	Researchers carry out their studies
12	SHRF monitors progress and outcomes of the grants and awards

Our review committee chairs and members are primarily selected and recruited from Saskatchewan's health research and service communities. We seek representation from all universities and a variety of disciplines. We also call on reviewers from outside the province for certain programs. Our peer reviewers are not only instrumental in evaluating applications they also provide valuable feedback to us about procedures, programs and trends in the health research community. Peer review committee members for 2004-05 are listed in this section.

We are extremely grateful to our review committee members who so generously provide their expertise on a volunteer basis, usually for three-year terms. These dedicated individuals contribute to the collective wisdom that is critical to the quality and integrity of our review processes.

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate number of years served, including current competition.

Biomedical Establishment Grant Review Committee

John Gordon (Chair) (1)
Veterinary Microbiology
Western College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Peter Bretscher (2)
Microbiology and Immunology
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

John DeCoteau (4)
Pathology
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Rod Kellin (1)
Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
University of Regina

Jeremy Lee (1)
Biochemistry
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Helen Nichol (1)
Anatomy and Cell Biology
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Phyllis Paterson (2)
Nutrition and Dietetics
College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
University of Saskatchewan

Elemir Simko (2)
Veterinary Pathology
Western College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Sylvia van den Hurk (1)
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization
University of Saskatchewan

Socio-Health Grants and Awards Review Committee

Bonnie Jeffery (Chair) (1)
Faculty of Social Work
University of Regina

Jay Biem (2)
Medicine
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Ken Craig (1)
Psychology
University of British Columbia

Sheila Evans (2)
Faculty of Nursing
University of Calgary

Suzanne Sheppard (2)
Physical Therapy
Royal University Hospital
Saskatoon Regional Health Authority

Biomedical Personnel Awards Review Committee

Louis Delbaere (Chair) (1)
Biochemistry
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Neil Ashton (4)
Biology
Faculty of Science
University of Regina

Keith Bonham (3)
Cancer Research Unit
Saskatchewan Cancer Agency

Gillian Muir (1)
Veterinary Biomedical Sciences
Western College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Marianna Foldvari (1)
College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
University of Saskatchewan

Lydden Polley (1)
Veterinary Microbiology
Western College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Janette van den Berghe (1)
Pediatrics
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Valerie Verge (2)
Anatomy and Cell Biology
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Bruce Waygood (4)
Office of the Vice-President (Research)
University of Saskatchewan

Research Group Facilitation Grant Review Committee

Tom Wishart (Chair) (2)
College of Graduate Studies and Research
University of Saskatchewan

Leon Browder (2)
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Faculty of Medicine
University of Calgary

Gordon Glazner (2)
Neurodegenerative Diseases Research Unit
St. Boniface Hospital, Winnipeg

Andrew Demchuk (1)
Clinical Neurosciences
Faculty of Medicine
University of Calgary

Lloyd Sutherland (1)
Lloyd Sutherland Group, Calgary

Saskatchewan - Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Regional Partnership Program

The Regional Partnership Program (RPP), offered by CIHR has had a strong impact in Saskatchewan. This goal of this federal program is to increase CIHR funding in provinces where levels are low relative to other areas in the country. It encourages strategic use of the funds to build health research capacity and sustainability.

In the late 1990s, Saskatchewan's share of CIHR's funding was just under one percent (0.9%), making Saskatchewan one of four provinces eligible for the program. Based on our population Saskatchewan aimed for just over three percent of CIHR funding.

Our provincial government signed a five-year RPP agreement with CIHR in 1999, the only province to do so that year. The agreement guaranteed that matched provincial funds would be available for Saskatchewan researchers who achieved very good scores at CIHR but were just below the national funding cut-offs. This was a huge morale booster for researchers, since it gave them greater hope that they would be funded. The result of the agreement was more applications.

Recent data demonstrate the program's success. CIHR funds flowing to Saskatchewan researchers more than tripled between 1999-00 and 2004-05 – going from $2.7-million to $9.5-million. During the same period, CIHR's budget also increased, but at a lower rate – just over double – demonstrating that Saskatchewan gained ground during that period.

When CIHR extended RPP into 2004-05 and 2005-06, SHRF decided to continue support for the program. In 2004-05, SHRF committed $700,000 to the $1-million matching pool; Saskatchewan Learning also committed $250,000 from the Innovation and Science Fund; the remaining matching funds came from the Universities. SHRF manages and distributes the provincial matching funds, on advice from a multi-stakeholder advisory committee.

A provincial evaluation two years ago illustrated the program's effectiveness in increasing the level of CIHR-funded research activity in Saskatchewan, specifically in starting new research, providing bridge funding for established researchers, increasing student training, and creating more high-quality jobs in the province.

Table 2 shows the number and value of new RPP grants and awards approved in 2004-05, totaling $2.5-million (combined CIHR and Saskatchewan funds). About half the funding goes toward operating grants; the other half goes toward personnel awards, including faculty salary awards, postdoctoral fellowships, and doctoral fellowships.

CIHR began its own extensive evaluation of the RPP in 2004-05. The results, expected early in 2005-06, will influence CIHR's decision about the program's future. Should it be continued, SHRF will also consider extending matching support, subject to resource availability.

Table 2: Summary of Grants and Awards Approved: 2004-05 * Saskatchewan - Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Regional Partnership Program (RPP)

Type	Term	Number Approved	Approved Funding (% of total) **
Faculty Salary Awards	5 Years	2	**$550,000 (22%)**
Postdoctoral Fellowships	1-3 Years	3	**$280,000 (11%)**
Doctoral Fellowships	1-3 Years	5	**$275,500 (11%)**
Operating Grants	2 Years	9	**$1,237,056 (49%)**
Equipment Grants	1 Year	5	**$171,748 (7%)**
Totals		**24**	**$2,514,314 (100%)**

* A list of approved grants and awards is available upon request.

** Approved amounts include both the CIHR and provincial commitments, matched 1:1. These amounts are as originally approved and do not reflect subsequent adjustments due to changes such as early terminations.

University Co-ordinator of Health Research

In a five-year partnership running to June 2005, SHRF provides $100,000/year and the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) provides $50,000/year to operate the office of the University Co-ordinator of Health Research, housed in the Office of the Vice-President, Research, University of Saskatchewan.

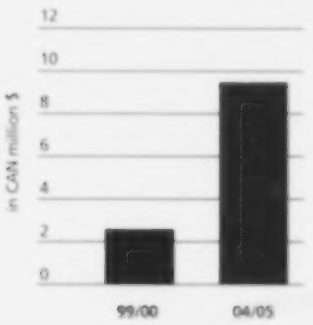
Dr. Bruce Waygood, in the position since July 2000, works with health researchers around the province to increase the number and quality of Saskatchewan applications to CIHR. The role is multi-faceted, from encouraging more national grant applications, to bringing together potential collaborators, to developing an internal pre-review system.

This partnership and the Sask-CIHR RPP (described earlier) create a very productive synergy for health research in Saskatchewan. The added funding available from the RPP and Dr. Waygood's dedication to increasing applications to CIHR, as well as to improving their quality and diversity, have contributed to a 3.5-fold increase in CIHR funds coming to Saskatchewan between 1999 and 2004 (see Figure 1).

Success rates have improved greatly in certain CIHR program areas, notably the strategic competitions. However, success rates in operating grant competitions still need some improvement, hovering at or below national averages. Success rates in personnel award competitions need most improvement; these include new investigator awards and postdoctoral fellowships. Dr. Waygood is exploring strategies for improving success rates further.

A mid-term review of the partnership showed it to be very successful, as measured by increased CIHR grant numbers and amounts to Saskatchewan. Among those consulted, there was strong support for continuing the role and making it permanent.

Figure 1:
An Increase of CIHR Dollars to Saskatchewan (1999-2004)



SEARCH Continues in Saskatchewan

SEARCH is a partnership program of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) that trains people in doing applied health research and using research evidence in making health services decisions. SEARCH stands for Swift Efficient Application of Research in Community Health.

Saskatchewan first participated in SEARCH in 2003, under the auspices of the Health Quality Council. As of 2005, SHRF continues the commitment, keeping SEARCH in Saskatchewan and sponsoring two participants from our health system. This initiative is a good fit with our mandate and with the strategic theme "Applying What We Learn" in the new provincial *Health Research Strategy*.

A meeting of stakeholders in January 2005 showed a very high degree of interest in continuing SEARCH in Saskatchewan and, moreover, for expanding the opportunity, if feasible. We moved forward quickly to form a partnership with SEARCH Alberta (now SEARCH Canada) and to announce the opportunity to all health authorities in the province.

We received five applications and our peer review committee selected the two top candidates in mid-March, both from rural sites (see inset). Participants attend seven training modules in Alberta over two years and complete two research projects, one of which must be of direct relevance to their employing health region.

SHRF's commitment includes a grant for the required information technology and payment of participants' expenses to attend the training modules. We also support the participation of one Saskatchewan faculty member, Glenn Donnelly, College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan.

The employing health authorities commit to allocating time for the participants' training and research projects. Each participant's supervisor also attends two orientation meetings, helping to create a supportive environment for participants in applying the new knowledge gained in the training and from their research.

SEARCH V Participants from Saskatchewan

Karen Earnshaw,
Facility Manager, Indian Head Union Hospital and Golden Prairie Home, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region

Penny Froh,
Manager of Community Services, Rural Health Services, Northern Wakaw, Saskatoon Health Region

Measuring Success

Evaluating our funding programs is critical to answering questions about the extent to which our program goals are achieved and about our contribution to building research capacity in Saskatchewan. Our evaluations are designed to ensure accountability for our program priorities and research funding decisions, to inform our strategic planning, and to contribute to knowledge about assessing the value and impact of research funding. We use various methods to collect information, starting at the application process to five years following implementation of the grant, and explore multiple possible impacts of our funded health research.

Activity

In our analyses of application trends since 1996, we found that SHRF's programs have had sustained or increased interest in recent years. In particular, our core programs, the Postdoctoral Fellowship and Establishment Grant Programs, have consistently attracted a strong number of applications.

Outcomes

Data from progress and final reports required from all grant and award holders provide us with outcome data. We find that 2/3 of SHRF-funded research fellows complete their two-year term and almost all accomplish a first-author peer-reviewed publication. Similarly, a majority of Establishment Grant holders complete their grants and disseminate findings through scholarly publications and presentations locally, nationally and/or internationally. Research we have funded has facilitated training of graduate students and health practitioners and employed other researchers, technicians and support staff. Our funded research groups are getting traction and contributing to increased collective research ideas, proposals and activities.

Impact

Our funding programs have numerous positive effects on researchers' careers and help strengthen the research environment. Fellows and supervisors alike credit the research fellowships with high or medium importance for contributing to: career development, *"The fellow gained skills in reserch intellectual abilities, research technical abilities, and writing of independent manuscripts and grant proposals,"* building research capacity, *"The fellowship research allowed my research program to expand in several areas where it might not have. My fellow spread her enthusiasm to a number of physician residents who are now carrying out research in collaboration with my lab,"* and securing additional funding. Consistent with their main aim, Establishment Grants are rated as important for establishing research careers and fostering subsequent grant development: *"My Establishment Grant was the building block to continue to get funding."*

Other benefits reported include: the injection of new knowledge into teaching, *"My Establishment Grant research provides evidence for my clinical teaching. I share the design, limitations and fidings of the research,"* shaping subsequent research, *"None of my subsequent research would have ben possible without the initial funding,"* connections with government and industry, dissemination of research findings, changes in health practice, *"Health programs initiated by my research continue to run in the community,"* advancements in policy development, and the creation of new networks among researchers. Challenges remain in retaining researchers in the province and in researchers obtaining subsequent major research grants.

In working towards our mandate to ensure that research leads to benefits for the people of Saskatchewan, we will be working with our partners, provincially and nationally, who share our interest in understanding the value of and multiple benefits derived from investing in health research.

IMPACT STORY

The impact of infections on lung disease

Dr. Baljit Singh, Veterinary Biomedical Sciences, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Despite research progress, one Canadian still dies every 20 minutes from a lung disease, according to the Lung Association of Canada. Baljit's research investigates the role of pulmonary intravascular macrophages (PIMs) on lung injury and disease. Macrophage means, literally, *"big eater,"* so *"macrophages"* are defence cells in the body that can destroy bacteria. PIMs are not normally found in the blood vessels in the lungs of people, except those suffering also from liver diseases. However, various animal species do normally have PIMs. The work done by Baljit and others has shown that although PIMs are protective, they can cause lung injury if overly activated.

"My graduate and undergraduate students have won awards at international conferences."

Impact...on health:

Understanding how these PIMs work might help researchers better explain the higher incidence of lung diseases in people suffering from other vascular diseases, as well as their greater susceptibility to secondary infections. This research allows Baljit to look specifically at the role of PIMs in lung diseases in Saskatchewan swine barn workers as well as other lung diseases caused by bacteria. Dr. Singh's 1999 Biomedical Establishment Grant helped establish his research program focus on mechanisms of lung inflammation. It also led to additional funding from Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada and Lung Association of Saskatchewan.

Impact...on research & practice:

This project helped build and expand a research program, build collaborations with other researchers in Saskatchewan and Germany, and provided Baljit with material for two peer-reviewed journals as first author, and five abstracts presented at conferences. In terms of contribution to the field of lung disease research, new knowledge was contributed on the fundamental roles of PIMs in lung diseases. Baljit's research has been recognized with Young Faculty Award from the American Association of Anatomists, Young Cell and Molecular Biology Scientist Award, the European Respiratory Society and Pfizer Excellence in Research Award from Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

Impact...on the economy:

The SHRF-funded project helped Dr. Singh leverage more than $800,000 in external grants and awards for continuing research in this area. In addition he was able to secure more than $50,000 from various agencies for personnel support awards to employ undergraduate and graduate students. The total impact on the Saskatchewan economy of his leveraged research funding amounted to more than $880,000.

Impact...on teaching: Baljit's SHRF project involved training for one Master's student and one Ph.D. student. In addition, due to leveraged funds following the SHRF project, he was able to train more than 20 undergraduate and nine graduate students including two with graduate scholarships from NSERC and CIHR.

"Acquiring the SHRF grant was very influential in my decision to continue to do research in Saskatchewan. It was essential in establishing my research, which has grown into a very active program on lung inflammation with a significant focus on specific health issues of Saskatchewanians. The program is gaining international reputation as indicated by recruitment of highly qualified graduate students and awards to my students and me from various professional societies."

"My establishment grant was essential to my research career. Without this funding, I wouldn't have been able to attract students to my lab or secure a place for myself as a developmental researcher in this community. The web site developed with these funds has been instrumental in providing public access to information about my research. Ultimately, this has helped demystify the work and provide parents and students with greater confidence to participate in this research. Finally, the grant provided an important opportunity to develop administrative skills required to independently manage a large scale project. I greatly appreciate this support."

IMPACT STORY

Teenagers, self-perception & peers

Dr. Lorrie Sippola, Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan

Depression has the potential to seriously limit adolescents' potential to participate fully in Canadian society by contributing to other negative outcomes such as teenage pregnancy, school dropout, substance abuse, and suicide. Although girls are more frequently referred for therapy to deal with depression in adolescence when compared to boys, currently we don't really understand what causes this difference.

There is a common perception that girls have more difficulty than boys in dealing with the perceived pressures from the peer group to conform to traditional sex role stereotypes. In an effort to understand sex differences in adolescents' experience of depression, Dr. Sippola wondered how much influence peers have on how teenage girls and boys see themselves, particularly in terms of what is appropriate behaviour for men and women in our society. She also wondered how teenagers' perceptions of this peer pressure impacts their emotional health as they negotiate the normal challenges associated with high school relationships.

Her project followed a number of Grade 6, 7 & 8 students from Saskatoon over two years. Dr. Sippola found that broad social messages tell both boys and girls they can *"be themselves"* or *"everyone is ok"* may be overridden by more covert peer group messages, which pressure young people to conform to stereotypical norms.

Dr. Sippola's follow up survey of her research revealed several highlights.

Impact...on teaching & practice:

This project provided training opportunities to numerous graduate and undergraduate students. Two students completed their Master's thesis using the data obtained from this study. Dr. Sippola and a current Ph.D. student are collaborating on a paper from this data.

Seven undergraduates completed their honours' theses using data from the study. One has become a research assistant since graduating, and is continuing to complete her Ph.D. Another student became a research assistant at Dartmouth University and is now a graduate student in psychology at the University of Manitoba. At least two other undergraduates on the projects intend to continue their studies at post-graduate levels. Sippola has also presented several papers from the study at conferences in Canada, the US and China.

Impact...on the economy:

This 1999 Research Establishment Grant provided leverage for a further Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant in 2002 for $90,000.

Impact...on community development/capacity-building and knowledge transfer:

One of the most important accomplishments of the project has been the development of a strong working relationship with both the Saskatoon Public School and the Saskatoon West School Divisions. Dr. Sippola has also assisted other school divisions in developing their own programs of research. Through the extensive community development work undertaken, she has been successful in building support for a developmental science approach for understanding the health and well-being of our youth.

Report of Management

Management is responsible for the integrity of the financial information reported by the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation. Fulfilling this responsibility requires the preparation and presentation of financial statements and other financial information in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles that are consistently applied, with any exceptions specifically described in the financial statements.

The accounting system used by the Foundation includes an appropriate system of internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that:

- transactions are authorized;
- the assets of the Foundation are protected from loss and unauthorized use; and
- the accounts are properly kept and financial reports are properly monitored to ensure reliable information is provided for preparation of financial statements and other financial information.

To ensure management meets its responsibilities for financial reporting and internal control, board members of the Foundation discuss audit and financial reporting matters with representatives of management at regular meetings. Foundation board members have also reviewed and approved the financial statements with representatives of management.

The Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan has audited the Foundation's statement of financial position, statements of revenue, expenditure and changes in fund balance, and statement of cash flows. His responsibility is to express an opinion on the fairness of management's financial statements. The Auditor's report outlines the scope of his audit and his opinion.

F. L. Harrison, PhD, MSc, BPT
Chair

June M. Bold, MSc, BA
Chief Executive Officer

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
April 27, 2005

Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation as at March 31, 2005 and the statements of revenue, expenses and changes in fund balance and cash flows for the year then ended. The Foundation's management is responsible for preparing these financial statements for Treasury Board's approval. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation as at March 31, 2005 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Regina, Saskatchewan
April 27, 2005

Fred Wendel, CMA, CA
Provincial Auditor

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31

	2005			2004
	Operating Fund	RPP Fund (Note 8)	Total	Total
Current Assets:				
Cash	$ 17,602	$ –	$ 17,602	$ 147,952
Accrued interest receivable	8,338	–	8,338	8,338
Accounts receivable	7,113	–	7,113	7,619
Short-term investments (Schedule 1)	1,929,116	–	1,929,116	1,476,873
Prepaid expenses	1,916	–	1,916	401
	1,964,085	–	1,964,085	1,641,183
Long-term investments (Schedule 1)	3,259,371	1,333,684	4,593,055	5,134,987
Property, plant and equipment (Note 2(c) and 3)	59,950	–	59,950	29,025
Total assets	$ 5,283,406	$ 1,333,684	$ 6,617,090	$ 6,805,195
Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	$ 45,499	$ –	$ 45,499	$ 1,391
Payroll liabilities	37	–	37	6
Grants payable	326,451	–	326,451	407,496
Total liabilities	371,987	–	371,987	408,893
Fund balances:				
Externally restricted	–	–	–	–
Internally restricted (Schedule 2)	3,246,513	1,333,684	4,580,197	5,641,047
Unrestricted	1,664,906	–	1,664,906	755,255
Fund balances (Statement 2)	4,911,419	1,333,684	6,245,103	6,396,302
Commitments (Note 4)				
Total liabilities and fund balance	$ 5,283,406	$ 1,333,684	$ 6,617,090	$ 6,805,195

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement 2

Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balance

For the Year Ended March 31

	2005				2004
	Operating Fund		RPP		
	Budget	Actual	Fund	Total	Total
	(Note 11)		(Note 8)		
Revenue:					
General Revenue Fund					
Saskatchewan Health	$ 5,933,000	$ 5,933,000	$ –	$ 5,933,000	$ 5,933,000
Saskatchewan Learning	–	–	250,000	250,000	–
Saskatchewan Industry and Resources	–	–	–	–	250,000
Interest	220,000	302,836	–	302,836	341,050
Recoveries	–	24,940	–	24,940	33,296
Donations	–	–	–	–	100
Miscellaneous	–	1,030	–	1,030	135
Total revenue	6,153,000	6,261,806	250,000	6,511,806	6,557,581
Expenses:					
Personnel awards	761,498	702,769	–	702,769	527,937
Research grants	1,662,842	1,208,272	1,018,233	2,226,505	1,813,466
SPHERU	–	305,000	–	305,000	754,335
Centres	2,675,000	2,675,000	–	2,675,000	2,675,000
Partnerships	100,000	100,000	–	100,000	100,000
Wages and benefits	313,860	301,560	–	301,560	229,637
Administrative and operating expenses	263,220	301,414	–	301,414	201,693
Honoraria and expenses of the board and committees	61,660	50,757	–	50,757	41,253
Total expenses	5,838,080	5,644,772	1,018,233	6,663,005	6,343,321
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expense	$ 314,920	617,034	(768,233)	(151,199)	214,260
Fund balance, beginning of year		4,994,385	1,401,917	6,396,302	6,182,042
Transfers between funds (Note 8)		(700,000)	700,000	–	–
Fund balance, end of year (Statement 1)		$ 4,911,419	$ 1,333,684	$ 6,245,103	$ 6,396,302

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended March 31

	2005			2004
	Operating Fund	RPP Fund	Total	Total
		(Note 8)		
Operating Activities:				
Cash provided by:				
General Revenue Fund				
Saskatchewan Health	$ 5,933,000	$ –	$ 5,933,000	$ 5,933,000
Saskatchewan Learning	–	250,000	250,000	–
Saskatchewan Industry and Resources	–	–	–	375,000
Other receipts	8,449	–	8,449	22,641
Interest	8	–	8	1,972
	5,941,457	250,000	6,191,457	6,332,613
Cash used for:				
Wages and benefits	302,591	–	302,591	230,124
Grant and award payments	5,047,146	1,018,233	6,065,379	6,095,562
Supplies and other	332,648	–	332,648	267,739
	5,682,385	1,018,233	6,700,618	6,593,425
Total operating activities	259,072	(768,233)	(509,161)	(260,812)
Investment activities:				
Decrease in investments	324,285	68,233	392,518	15,036
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	(13,707)	–	(13,707)	(30,454)
	310,578	68,233	378,811	(15,418)
Net increase (decrease) in cash	569,650	(700,000)	(130,350)	(276,230)
Cash, beginning of year	147,952	–	147,952	424,182
Transfers between funds (Note 8)	(700,000)	700,000	–	–
Cash, end of year	$ 17,602	$ –	$ 17,602	$ 147,952

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Schedule 1

Schedule of Investments

For the Year Ended March 31, 2005

	Maturity Date	Carrying Value	Effective Rate
Cash:			
CIBC Wood Gundy cash account		$ 472	1.50%
Short-term investments:			
Ontario Hydro	11-Apr-2005	306,982	5.95%
Province of Ontario	2-Jun-2005	828,994	6.55%
Sask Savings Bonds	15-Jul-2005	100,000	5.75%
Province of Ontario	1-Dec-2005	309,120	6.01%
Province of Ontario	8-Mar-2006	383,548	2.44%
		1,929,116	
Long-term investments:			
Province of Nova Scotia	1-Jun-2006	238,955	4.11%
Province of Ontario	8-Sep-2006	383,578	2.53%
Govt of Canada Strip Bond	1-Dec-2006	239,127	4.16%
Province of Manitoba	5-Mar 2007	495,646	5.56%
Province of Ontario	8-Mar-2007	239,648	4.24%
Province of Newfoundland	17-Apr-2007	273,030	4.35%
Province of New Brunswick	15-Jun-2007	383,704	2.90%
Province of Ontario	12-Sep-2007	273,175	4.35%
Govt of Canada Strip Bond	1-Dec-2007	273,775	4.43%
Province of British Columbia	9-Jun-2008	283,810	4.59%
Sask Savings Bonds	15-Jul-2008	200,000	3.00%
Province of Newfoundland	17-Apr-2009	434,917	4.12%
Province of Ontario	19-Nov-2009	479,823	4.06%
Province of Saskatchewan	18-Jan-2010	196,739	4.38%
Ontario Hydro	11-Apr-2010	197,128	4.47%
		4,593,055	
		$ 6,522,171	

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Schedule of Internally Restricted Funds

For the Year Ended March 31, 2005

The Foundation's financial commitments at March 31, 2005 were as follows:

YEAR	RESEARCH GRANTS (Note 2 (b))	PARTNERSHIPS (Note 7)	SPHERU (Note 5)	RPP (Note 8)	TOTAL
2006	$ 1,235,404	$ 25,000	$ 421,859	$ 700,000	$ 2,382,263
2007	365,250	–	275,000	–	640,250
2008	124,000	–	–	–	124,000
2009	100,000	–	–	–	100,000
	$ 1,824,654	$ 25,000	$ 696,859	$ 700,000	$ 3,246,513

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2005

1. Establishment of the Foundation

On January 31, 2003, *The Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation Act* (S.S. 2002, c.S-21.1) came into force establishing the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (Foundation). The Foundation is responsible for organizing, managing and allocating most provincial health research funding in Saskatchewan and for ensuring that supported research fits with the province's health research priorities and leads to benefits for health and the health system in Saskatchewan.

2. Accounting Policies

The Foundation maintains its accounts using Canadian generally accepted accounting principles including the following significant accounting policies:

a) Fund Accounting

The accounts of the Foundation are maintained in accordance with the principles of restricted fund accounting for contributions. For financial reporting purposes, accounts with similar characteristics have been combined into the following funds:

i) Operating Fund

The Operating Fund reflects the operations of the Foundation, including facilitating health research in the province and disseminating results of funded research. Revenue consists of provincial funds, interest and miscellaneous revenue. Expenses consist of research grants and awards, administrative costs, and core support for research centres (see note 6).

ii) Restricted Fund – Saskatchewan – Canadian Institutes of Health Research Regional Partnership Program (RPP)

The RPP Fund reflects transfers from the Foundation and revenue from Saskatchewan Learning. Expenses consist of research grants and awards (see note 8).

b) Research Grants

Annual Competitions

The Foundation holds annual competitions through which funds are awarded to successful applicants for terms of up to two years. The Foundation expenses the approved funds for each year of the grant, provided recipients meet eligibility criteria. Awarded amounts not paid or payable at year-end are recorded as commitments in Schedule 2.

The balance of funds advanced to administering institutions in excess of the current requirements of researchers is held in trust by those institutions until drawn down by the researchers. Funds not spent during the term of a research grant are treated as a recovery in the year that this is determined. These funds are then available to be awarded for future research.

c) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are recorded at cost. Normal maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred. Property, plant and equipment assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives (3 to 10 years).

d) Revenue

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the Operating Fund in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. All other restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate restricted fund.

e) Investments

Investments are valued at the lower of amortized cost or net realizable value.

3. Property, Plant and Equipment

	2005			2004
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Furniture and Equipment	$ 60,945	$ 29,290	$ 31,655	$ 29,025
Leasehold Improvements	37,726	9,431	28,295	–
	$ 98,671	$ 38,721	$ 59,950	$ 29,025

4. Commitments

At March 31, 2005, the Foundation had the following lease commitments:

	2006	2007	2008
Office rent lease	$ 66,504	$ 66,504	$ 30,481
Photocopier lease	2,352	588	–
	$ 68,856	$ 67,092	$ 30,481

5. Saskatchewan Population Health Evaluation and Research Unit (SPHERU)

The Foundation carries on a ten-year financial commitment started in 1997-98 by the Health Services Utilization and Research Commission to support the establishment and development of SPHERU. The Foundation's commitment is $250,000 per year, plus interest of up to $25,000 per year, until the year 2006-07. In 2004-05, the Foundation contributed an additional $250,000 to SPHERU and expects to contribute the same each year until 2006-07. Expenses consist of grants to support research.

An October 1999 memorandum of agreement governs the Foundation's payments to SPHERU research accounts at the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina, to undertake SPHERU-Board approved activities. Unused funding is retained by the Foundation for distribution in future years.

6. Core-Funded Research Centres

As of April 1, 2003, Saskatchewan Health transferred funding responsibility for five research centres to the Foundation by increasing the operating revenue. Funding amounts and terms vary, as listed below. The Foundation developed accountability agreements with each centre, including a requirement for reporting on funds spent and outlining future plans.

Research Centre	Annual $	Current Term
Canadian Centre for Analysis of Regionalization and Health, Saskatoon	100,000	03-04 to 05-06
Cancer Research Unit, Saskatchewan Cancer Agency	563,000	03-04 to 05-06
Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre, First Nations University of Canada	500,000	03-04 to 07-08
Institute of Agricultural, Rural and Environmental Health, Medicine, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan	250,000	03-04 to 05-06
Neuropsychiatry Research Unit (including Applied Research Unit), Psychiatry, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan	1,262,000	03-04 to 05-06

7. Partnerships

Periodically, the Foundation enters into funding partnerships, often spanning more than one year, to help achieve its goals and objectives. Current partnerships are described below, with corresponding future funding commitments listed in Schedule 2.

a) University Co-ordinator of Health Research (UCHR)

Under a November 1999 memo of understanding with the University of Saskatchewan transferred from HSURC, the Foundation contributes $100,000 per year to support a University Co-ordinator of Health Research position. The current agreement expires June 30, 2005, with an option for renewal beyond that date. The purpose of the position is to help the Foundation build health research capacity and increase the success rates of Saskatchewan researchers in federal research competitions.

8. Saskatchewan – Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Regional Partnership Program (RPP) Fund

In 1999-2000, the provincial government agreed to provide matching funds for Saskatchewan researchers and research projects in conjunction with CIHR's Regional Partnership Program, with provincial funds matching CIHR funds on a 1:1 basis. This agreement ended March 31, 2004. CIHR extended the program for two years and the Foundation continues to match funds. Current funding is provided by Saskatchewan Learning (Innovation and Science Fund) and the Foundation's commitment of $700,000. The Foundation manages and disburses these funds, with advice from an external advisory committee. Unused funding is retained by the Foundation for distribution in future years. The RPP committee has approved grants for payment in 2005-06 of $818,372, 2006-07 of $438,637, 2007-08 of $131,000, 2008-09 of $71,500 and 2009-10 of $25,000.

9. Related Party Transactions

Included in these financial statements are transactions with various Saskatchewan Crown Corporations, departments, agencies, boards and commissions related to the Foundation by virtue of common control by the Government of Saskatchewan, and non-Crown corporations and enterprises subject to joint control or significant influence by the Government of Saskatchewan (collectively referred to as "related parties").

Routine operating transactions with related parties are recorded at the standard rates charged by those organizations and are settled on normal trade terms. These transactions and amounts outstanding at year-end are as follows:

	2005	2004
Research grant, administrative and occupancy expenses:		
Capital Pension Plan – employee benefits	$ 13,765	$ 10,573
Heartland Health Region	10,000	–
SAHO	1,340	–
Saskatchewan Cancer Agency	563,000	563,000
Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation	59,457	46,692
Sask Tel	9,534	7,487
University of Regina	218,225	606,608
University of Saskatchewan	4,596,848	4,100,155
Other	1,541	1,512
Accounts payable	39,867	902
Grants payable	326,451	407,496

The Foundation pays Provincial Sales Tax to the Saskatchewan Department of Finance on all its taxable purchases. Taxes paid are recorded as part of the cost of those purchases.

Other transactions with related parties and amounts due to or from them are described separately in these financial statements and the notes thereto.

10. Financial Instruments

The Foundation has the following financial instruments: accrued interest receivable, accounts receivable, investments, accounts payable, and grants payable. The following paragraphs disclose the significant aspects of these financial instruments.

a) Significant terms and conditions

There are no significant terms and conditions associated with the financial instruments, other than investments, that may affect the amount, timing, and certainty of future cash flows. Significant terms and conditions for investments are described separately in these financial statements and the accompanying notes.

b) Interest rate risk

The Foundation is exposed to interest rate risk when the value of its financial instruments fluctuates due to changes in market interest rates.

The Foundation's receivables and payables are non-interest bearing. Due to the short-term nature of these, as well as cash and short-term investments, interest rate risk is minimal.

As market interest rates fluctuate the market value of long-term investments moves in the opposite direction. This risk will affect the price the Foundation could sell the investments for prior to maturity.

c) Credit risk

The Foundation is exposed to credit risk from potential non-payment of accounts receivable or investment income and principal.

Most of the Foundation's receivables are from the provincial government; therefore the credit risk is minimal.

The Foundation's investments consist of provincial and federal government bonds, promissory notes, treasury bills and bankers acceptances with large Canadian banks. Therefore, credit risk for investments and related accrued interest receivable is minimal.

d) Fair Value

For the following financial instruments, the carrying amounts approximate fair value due to their immediate or short-term nature:

Accrued interest receivable
Accounts receivable
Short-term investments
Accounts payable
Grants payable

The fair value of long-term investments is $4,627,271 (2004 - $5,287,469). The fair value is considered to approximate quoted market values.

11. Budget

The operating budget was approved by the Board on April 2, 2004.

12. Pension Plan

The Foundation is a participating employer in the Capital Pension Plan, a defined contribution pension plan. Eligible employees make monthly contributions of 5.5% of gross salary which are matched by the Foundation. During the year, the Foundation's total contributions were $13,265 (2004 - $10,573).

13. Comparative Information

Certain 2003-04 balances have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation

253-111 Research Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7N 3R2
Ph (306) 975-1680 Fax (306) 975-1688
info@shrf.ca www.shrf.ca

Saskatchewan
Health Research
FOUNDATION